Subsidy released in favour of the Govt. of Assam

(Rupees in Lakh)

Name of the Scheme	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02 (upto 28.2.2002)
1. Transport Subsidy Scheme	2548.61	1250.53	1195.24	1669.00*	1118.00*
2. Central Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme	—	—	—	—	366.00*
3. **Central Interest Subsidy Scheme	—	—	—	—	—
4. **Central Comprehensive Insurance Scheme	—	—	—	—	—

*As per the details of disbursement furnished by NEDFi, which is the authorised nodal agencyfor disbursement of subsidies in North East Region.

**The scheme is yet to take off.

Impact of FDI on food retailing sector

502. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Adverse impact of FDI in retailing foreseen" which appeared in The Hindu dated the 24th November, 2001;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to save food and non-food retailers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per the extant policy, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is not permitted in retail trading.

Liquidation of tea estate by tea trading corporation of India

503. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tea Trading Corporation of India was prayed before the honourable Calcutta High Court to put Putung va-tukvar and Peshok tea estates in liquidation;

(b) the present liabilities of the three tea gardens, garden-wise and head of account-wise;

(c) whether Government are going to pay arrears, P.F. and gratuity to workers; and

(d) if so, the time frame thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) Yes, Sir. Tea Trading Corporation of India (TTCI) has prayed before the Calcutta High Court for liquidation of the Company as a whole including its 5 Tea Gardens namely, Putung, Vah-Tukvar, Peshok, Pathini and Looksan.

(b) The liabilities of these three gardens which includes wages & others, CPF etc. are as under:—

1. Putong	Rs. 115.42 lacs (Upto December, 2001)
2. Vah-Tukvar	Rs. 690.63 lacs (Upto September, 2001)
3. Peshok	Rs. 358.00 lacs (Estimated)

(c) and (d) TTCI a wholly owned subsidiary of STC is facing an acute financial crunch being a loss making company and has been unable to discharge its obligations. TTCI management has filed a petition in Calcutta High Court for liquidation of the company. The case is pending in the Court. The aspect in regard to payment of dues of PF, gratuity etc. can be taken into consideration based on the judgement of Calcutta High Court in the liquidation case. It is, however, not feasible to assess the time frame for the judgement of the Hon'ble Calcutta High Court.

Slow industrial growth rate

504. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial growth in the country during the past few months have reached an alarming point in comparison to the previous year's growth rate;